IN THE CLAIMS:

Please AMEND claims 4 and 7, as follows:

1. (Original) An image heating apparatus for heating an image formed on a recording material, comprising:

a first rotatable member;

a second rotatable member contacting said first rotatable member, wherein a recording material passes between said first rotatable member and said second rotatable member; and

heating means which heats said first rotatable member, said heating means having a third rotatable member contacting a surface of said first rotatable member;

wherein releasability of a surface of said third rotatable member is higher than releasability of a surface of said second rotatable member.

2. (Original) An image heating apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said third rotatable member has flexibility.

3. (Original) An image heating apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said heating means includes a heater for forming a heating nip portion together with said first rotatable member through said third rotatable member.

4. (Currently Amended) An image heating apparatus according to claim 3,

wherein said first rotatable member includes a roller without ~~deflection~~ flexibility.

5. (Original) An image heating apparatus according to claim 4, wherein said roller includes a heater therein.

6. (Original) An image heating apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said second rotatable member has flexibility.

7. (Currently Amended) An image heating apparatus according to claim 6, wherein said apparatus further comprises a sliding member for forming a conveying nip for ~~the~~ a recording member together with said first rotatable member through said second rotatable member.

8. (Original) An image heating apparatus according to claim 7, wherein said sliding member is a heater.

9. (Original) An image heating apparatus according to claim 1, wherein releasability of a surface of said first rotatable member is higher than releasability of a surface of said second rotatable member and lower than releasability of a surface of said third rotatable member.